

scenery of the Lakes of Cumberland and Westmoreland, and still think and work and publish. Here is a book by Dr. Davy, full to the brim of natural-history notes, in the wide—the Linnæan—sense of the term. The ichthyologist may derive much valuable information on the breeding and embryology of fish of the family Salmonidæ; see pages 165–183, where the author shows himself to be a keen observer and an accurate as well as pleasing writer. Turn to page 209, where he shows how the *smolt* loses in great measure the transverse markings of the *parr*,—the very silvery scales of the *smolt* having much lustrous matter deposited on their inner surface, and thus hiding the markings in the true skin.

But, besides Fish, Dr. Davy enlightens his readers on many other points of natural history.

Sir Emerson Tennant might derive an excellent anecdote for the inimitable monograph, *Biography of the Elephant*, still unpublished, but eagerly expected in his great work on Ceylon, were he to turn to p. 23, where Dr. Davy gives a striking proof that the Elephant *can* submit, without flinching, to a painful operation as well as many a man.

Dr. Davy introduces anecdotes of dogs;—of poultry in the West Indies, see p. 26;—the swan's nest, and how and by whom constructed, at p. 281. Ulpha Kirk and the beautiful lines of Wordsworth lead him to the wilds of Ceylon, and the pleasure he experienced, after a long journey, on coming in sight of a cocoa-nut palm,—as he remarks that it is never met with in the wild woods, but, by its presence, always marks out human dwellings (p. 245).

Meteorology and geology are treated most interestingly, in certain aspects that come before "Piscator" and "Amicus" as they wander amidst the scenery where William Wordsworth lived, observed, and wrote. What naturalist loves not to read and quote Wordsworth, particularly if wild flowers and gentle birds be his subjects? This pleasant book contains much to interest him, and indeed every reader of that great poet who sung the praises of the March Celandine, and in *one line* fixed, for ever, the Swan, that "queen of our lakes" and calmly flowing rivers. At this autumn season, the hills have a quiet soothing melancholy pleasure in their contemplation; and should any of our readers visit the hills and lakes of Westmoreland, they would thank us for recommending them to take, in addition to their guide-book, be it Adam Black's or Miss Martineau's, this prettily got-up green cloth pocket volume, full of facts and records of the wanderings and observations of an accomplished physician. The book is pervaded by a quiet religious and poetic tone, and is also full of kindly views of man and every lower creature.

The Practical Naturalist's Guide, containing Instructions for Collecting, Preparing, and Preserving Specimens of all Departments of Zoology. By JAMES BOYD DAVIES, Assistant Conservator in the Natural History Museum, Edinburgh. Maclachlan and Stewart, Edinburgh. 1858, 12mo.

In this little book of about 80 pages Mr. Davies has furnished the student of Zoology with an excellent manual of directions for

collecting and preserving specimens of the various sections of the Animal Kingdom. The instructions given are most sensible, and we think Mr. Davies has exercised a sound judgment in excluding all descriptions of the mode of stuffing the Mammalia and Birds, as this, which usually occupies a considerable space in similar manuals, can scarcely be taught by any written instructions. We think, however, that he should have found some means of indicating this upon his title-page,—the setting-up of such specimens is undoubtedly one branch of “preparing” animals; and the country naturalist who might buy this book in the hope of getting information upon the subject, would feel justly aggrieved at finding no instructions in stuffing in its pages.

In recommending the ‘Practical Naturalist’s Guide’ to our readers, we must not omit to notice one section of it, which, although occupying only three or four pages, will render it a handy book even to the experienced naturalist. We allude to the “Recipes” for arsenical soaps, preservative fluids, &c.,—details which are very liable to slip out of the memory, whilst manuscript memoranda are frequently mislaid.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN.

May 21, 1858.—The Duke of Northumberland, K.G., F.R.S.,
President, in the Chair.

“On the Phænomena of Gemmation.” By Thomas H. Huxley, F.R.S., Fullerian Professor of Physiology, Royal Institution, and Professor of Natural History, Government School of Mines, Jermyn Street.

The speaker commenced by stating that a learned French naturalist, M. Duvau, proposed, many years ago, to term the middle of the eighteenth century “l’époque des Pucerons,” and that the importance of the phænomena which were at first brought to light by the study of these remarkable insects renders the phrase “epoch of Plant-lice,” as applied to this period, far less whimsically inappropriate than it might at first sight seem to be.

After a brief sketch of the mode of life of these Plant-lice, or *Aphides*, as they are technically termed,—of the structure of their singular piercing and sucking mouths, and of their relation to what are called “blights,” the circumstances which have more particularly drawn the attention of naturalists to these insects were fully detailed.

It was between the years 1740 and 1750, in fact, that Bonnet, acting upon the suggestions of the illustrious Réaumur, isolated an *Aphis* immediately after its birth, and proved to demonstration, that not only was it capable of spontaneously bringing forth numerous